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STUART W. JOHNSON/DESERET NEWS

Lee Ann Long and her daughter, Julianne, enjoy a stroll with Rover, their red roan miniature horse.

FITTING IN

Miniature horse is big hit in its Provo neighbor-hood

City ordinance classifies the easygoing animal as a pet, not a farm animal.

By Dennis Romboy

Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — The Long family's pet, Rover, doesn't bark, bite or scratch. He doesn't chase cars, rummage through trash cans or leave droppings on neighbors' lawns.

And it's not that the Longs have trained him not to be a nuisance. Rover simply can't exhibit or isn't interested in those typical household pet behaviors. Most horses aren't.

Regals Rusty Rascal or Rover, for short, resides in the Long's

back yard, although he has clomped into the house several times. He slips on the linoleum. Rover isn't a typical horse. He's a red roan miniature horse.

The 36-inch gelding is Provo's first and only miniature horse permitted under a recently enacted ordinance that classifies the breed as a pet.

"He's my baby," said Lee Ann Long. "I've always loved horses. We've just never been in a position where I could have my own." David and Lee Ann Long successfully petitioned the city last month to allow them to keep their pet. Miniature horses up to 38 inches tall are now allowed in residential areas with conditional use permits.

According to the Intermountain Miniature Horse Club, Rover is among 150 to 200 registered miniature horses in Utah. They're divided into two categories — class B horses are 34 inches at the withers and smaller, while class B horses are 34 inches to 38 inches. There are at least six breeders in the state.

Rover spends most of his time munching on grass in the back yard.

"My husband says he's a great organic lawnmower. He doesn't cause any fumes. He doesn't take any gas. My husband didn't mow the lawn all summer," Lee Ann Long said.

David Long also built a small corral and shed at the side of the house. Lee Ann cleans it twice a day. The manure, which can't be found anywhere but in the corral, can be composted and used as fertilizer.

"We have always been careful

Please see ROVER on A2

Judge Sidney Nation, who sentenced Rollins on Friday for violating terms of his parole with the arrest, also ordered the 41-year-old actor to undergo drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Rollins plays a black detective on a mostly white small-town Southern police force in the CBS series, which is taped in Covington, 25 miles east of Atlanta.

Carroll O'Connor, the producer and star of the show, said Rollins has been written out of the season's final two episodes.

Rollins was stopped last month for speeding and weaving on a highway. It was the second time he had violated his probation, imposed in September for driving under the influence of a prescription drug.

All is not lost for Perot as TV invitations pour in

A proven ratings winner, Ross Perot has been overwhelmed with offers to sit in as a talk show host or commentator.

"But no decisions have been made. I don't think he is in any hurry to decide," spokeswoman Sharon Holman said.

The cable network CNBC has renewed an invitation to the former presidential candidate to be a guest host of "Talk Live." The one-hour, call-in show is seen Saturday nights. Guest hosts have included Beverly Sills and Oliver North.

The outspoken billionaire attracted big audiences with his talk-show appearances and program-length campaign commercials.

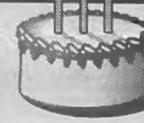
UPCOMING

FRIDAY: Two-day conference in New York at Teachers College, Columbia University, takes a new and not always negative view of adolescent gangs.

SATURDAY: Southern California's seventh area code (909), the most anywhere in the country, begins serving parts of Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties.

BIRTHDAYS

For Thursday, Nov. 12



Supreme Court Justice

Harry Blackmun

84

Musician-songwriter

Neil Young

47

Official's still in doghouse

United Press International

HONG KONG — Some passing joggers found Gov. Chris Patten's lost dog Thursday, but Australia's foreign minister remained in the doghouse over a joke he made about Chinese people eating it.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans quipped at a Hong Kong reception Monday that Patten's 7-month-old puppy, "Soda," had probably wound up on Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's dinner table.

"The governor's dog is probably a supreme delicacy," newspapers quoted Evans as saying. "They'll turn it into hors d'oeuvres for Deng Xiaoping — who, I'm told, eats four puppies a day."

Wednesday, Evans took to the floor of Australia's Parliament to apologize for the joke, claiming, "To say someone eats dog is very likely to be regarded a compliment (in China) . . . because dog just happens to be a very sophisticated and highly regarded item of Chinese cuisine."



Lavendar Patten, wife of Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten, holds her Norfolk terrier puppy, Soda

Yet despite Evans' theories about Soda's fate, joggers early Thursday found the missing dog and returned it to the Patters.

The Hong Kong governor had flown to Canada Wednesday on an official visit but reportedly kept abreast of efforts to locate his missing pet.

As for Evans' remarks, Patten said, "He is a very good friend to Hong Kong, and I think if anyone took offense to his remarks, he would apologize."



REUTERS

Petitioner hopes

Miner Andy Tarr from the Cotgrave area of Nottingham, stops in front of 10 D

ENVIRONMENT

EPA is sued

for

attack or other serious health effects when exposed even briefly to levels of sulfur dioxide well below the current health-based standard," said Dr. Lee Reichman,

ROVER

Continued from A1

to keep Rover's pen clean of manure and flies — after all, we live here, too," the Longs said. "The last thing we want to do is offend our neighbors by letting it stink or by being a nuisance." Many of the Longs' neighbors wrote letters of support to the city when the family petitioned to keep the animal.

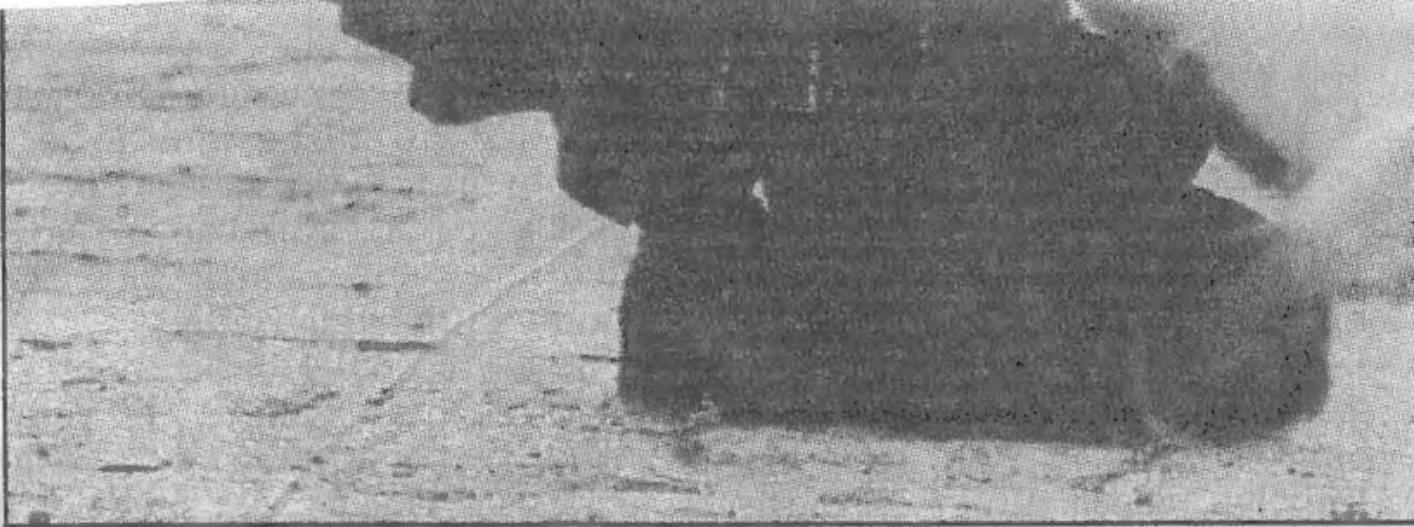
Rover is not only popular with the Long's three children, but with the neighbors' children also. Lee Ann draws a crowd of onlookers and followers whenever she takes the 3-year-old horse for a walk.

"I don't worry about him with

the kids," Lee Ann Long said. "The kids play ball and he wants to be right in the middle of the action." Miniature horses are known for their mild temperament. They're good-natured and gentle.

Rover responds to voice commands such as "walk," "trot" and "whoa." And even though Lee Ann Long can't ride her pet, she said "it takes care of my need to work with horses."

But she says they're not for everyone. The horses require consistent care. Although they're fairly inexpensive to maintain, a class B, pet-quality miniature costs \$500 to \$1,000 to buy. Class A miniatures run twice that. Show-quality horses start at \$5,000.



A peaceful interlude in a nation

An elderly woman is surrounded by pigeons as she gives them bread in the old part of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Guns were silent in the capital city early Thursday, but the Bosnian government military reported shelling north of Sarajevo in the battered towns of Olovo, Maglaj, Doboj and Tesanj. Flames were re-

portedly engulfing Gradacac, government's last strongholds in the north. A new cease-fire is expected to be tested. Dozens of previous cease-fires have been violated. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milošević Thursday to order the Serbian army back into war-torn